

WOMT Summary for 3/11/2008

Last week, the CVP and SWP continued operating to a 7-day running average Old & Middle River flow target more positive than -2,500 to -3,000 cfs.

The Smelt Working Group cited many of the same risk factors as the previous week, but added that adult salvage has increased over the last seven days despite decreased pumping rates; Delta water temperatures are continuing to increase, thus it is likely that more spawning is occurring; and the first delta smelt larvae that were spawned back in mid-February are likely to be moving up into the water column, putting them at increased risk for entrainment. Consequently, the Smelt Working Group recommended that the Projects operate to a 7-day OMR more positive than -1,500 cfs.

WOMT proposed that the Projects operate to a 7-day running average Old & Middle River flow target more positive than -2,000 cfs to be primarily protective of adult delta smelt based mostly on the adult salvage data, and based on the lack of detection of any larval or juvenile smelt in sampling or the 20 mm surveys last week. The water project agencies will begin managing exports so that the target 7-day running average is achieved by the end of the day next Wednesday (3/19/2008).

USFWS determined these proposed changes adequately protect delta smelt.

DFG determined the -2,000 cfs OMR target for delta smelt (in accordance with the Kempthorne decision) adequately protects longfin smelt. DFG based this decision on the current information regarding the distribution of longfin smelt adults and larvae and the recent pattern of longfin smelt salvage.

Also, the WOMT has decided to meet at Cottage Way or the JOC on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The specific location will be announced shortly.